

Education Reform in Brunei Darussalam: A Conversation

By Dato Daud

Abstract

This is a conversation based on my 30 years of experience in the education system in Brunei Darussalam as a teacher, school principal, Director, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Planning and Policy) and Permanent Secretary (Higher Education) at the Ministry of Education, Brunei Darussalam. The conversation will be framed primarily not as academic discourse but as an individual perspective.

Over the last 5 years, the Ministry of Education has been implementing educational reform at the school and tertiary levels. Implementation was based on the Ministry of Education's Strategic Plan 2007-2011, and the Higher Education Review Report 2008. The key initiative in the strategic plan was the development and implementation of a new education system for the 21st century (Sistem Pendidikan Negara Abad Ke 21 (SPN21) in January 2009.

The key recommendations in the Higher Education Review were to look at 3 areas; the size of the Higher Education sector in Brunei Darussalam, the quality of Higher Education (teaching and learning, curriculum, faculty members, infrastructure, research and development, Internationalization), and Niche areas for each university.

In any major education reform there are challenges that need to be addressed., shaped and based on our collective hopes for children in the system.

Hopefully this conversation will provide some insights into education reform in Brunei Darussalam, create opportunities for studying the impact of education reform, and other related research on education in Brunei Darussalam.

Profile of Speaker

Dato Daud was involved in education for the last thirty years as a teacher, a school principal, a Department Head, a Deputy Permanent Secretary and a Permanent Secretary of Higher Education at the Ministry of Education, Brunei Darussalam.

As the Permanent Secretary he was leading the Higher Education and Planning Division at the Ministry of Education which includes Higher Education Division, Planning, Research and Development Department, Estate Management and Planning Department, Technical Education Department, ICT Department, HRM Division, Scholarships Section, Secretariat of the National Education Council, Secretariat of the Brunei Darussalam Accreditation Council, and Secretariat of the Brunei Darussalam Technical and Vocational Education Council.

Dato Daud served as an Adjunct Professor for the School Leadership Programme for a year at the Institute of Leadership, Innovation and Advancement, Universiti Brunei Darussalam.